



# Fact Sheet

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*Since 1979, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) has provided leadership in stimulating, coordinating, and unifying national disease prevention and health promotion strategies among Federal, State, and local agencies and major private and voluntary organizations. ODPHP is located within the Office of Public Health and Science, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).*

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## Select ODPHP Activities

**Healthy People Initiative** — Healthy People is the prevention agenda for the Nation. The Healthy People Initiative guides efforts to promote health and prevent disease by establishing health improvement objectives with 10-year targets that are monitored over a decade. The Healthy People 2010 framework builds on initiatives pursued over the past two decades. A Surgeon General's Report, Healthy People, provided targets to reduce premature mortality in four life age groups in the 1980s and was supported by objectives with 1990 endpoints. Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives guides efforts toward health targets for the year 2000 (visit <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/hp2000>). Like its predecessors, Healthy People 2010 was developed through a broad consultation process built upon the best scientific information and designed to measure progress over time. It will be an action agenda for the first decade of the 21st century. Healthy People 2010 is the United States' contribution to the World Health Organization's "Health for All" strategy. For more information about Healthy People, visit <http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>.

**healthfinder®** — healthfinder® is a Hammer Award-winning gateway Web site linking consumers and professionals to health and human services information from the Federal Government and its many partners. ODPHP leads this department-wide project to provide access to reliable information via the Internet. healthfinder® includes almost 6,000 resources on 1,000 topics, which range from abstinence to wellness and include adoption, aging, AIDS, cancer, child care, heart disease, food safety, Medicare and Medicaid, nutrition, substance abuse, quality of care, and welfare. Visit <http://www.healthfinder.gov>.

**National Health Information Center (NHIC)** — This Internet-accessible clearinghouse with a toll-free number provides a central health information referral service for consumers and professionals using a database of more than 1,700 national associations, Government agencies, and other organizations. NHIC is a key component of the interagency support for the healthfinder® Web site. Visit <http://www.health.gov/nhic> or call 1-800-336-4797.

**Health Communication and ehealth** — ODPHP is the lead agency for the Health Communication Focus Area for Healthy People 2010. The six objectives in the Health Communication chapter focus attention on increasing Internet access in the home; improving health literacy; improving the quality of health information web sites; increasing research and evaluation of health communication activities; developing Centers of Excellence in health communication; and improving communication between patients and health care providers. ODPHP provides leadership and coordination on issues of quality of health information on the Internet and the development and evaluation of

interactive technologies for health. Since 1995, ODPHP has coordinated Partnerships for Networked Consumer Health Information, a public-private partnership to sponsor national conferences where public and private sector representatives explore emerging consumer health information and technology issues; visit <http://www.health.gov/partnerships>. The methods to evaluate interactive technologies for health improvement were examined by the Science Panel on Interactive Communication and Health (SciPICH), an ODPHP-sponsored expert panel. The panel's final report, *Wired for Health and Well-being: The Emergence of Interactive Health Communication*, was issued in April 1999. Visit <http://www.scipich.org>

**Environmental Health Policy Committee (EHPC) and HHS Nutrition Policy Board (NPB)** — These senior-level committees provide departmental leadership and coordination to resolve science-based policy questions about environmental health and nutrition. The EHPC document, *Environmental Health Data Needs: An Action Plan for Federal Public Health Agencies* can be viewed at <http://www.health.gov/environment>.

**Task Force on Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children** — President Clinton established this interdepartmental task force to recommend Federal strategies for children's environmental health and safety. Priority focus areas include asthma, unintentional injuries, cancer, lead, and developmental disorders. The task force is also exploring a longitudinal study on child development and the environment. The HHS Secretary and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator co-chair this task force; OSOPHS/ODPHP and EPA staff the effort.

**Dietary Guidelines for Americans** — Published jointly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) every 5 years since 1980, this publication is the statutorily mandated basis for Federal nutrition education activities. To view *Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (2000) and the *Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (2000), visit <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/>.

**U.S. Action Plan for Food Security-Domestic Actions** — ODPHP coordinated the HHS contribution to this follow-up to the 1996 World Food Summit. The plan, released in March 1999, includes both international and domestic dimensions. Visit <http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/summit/summit.html>.

**Drug Policy** — ODPHP staffs the Assistant Secretary for Health for policy development and coordination relating to drug policy in HHS and with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

**Healthy Communities, Worksites, and Schools** — ODPHP works closely with the Coalition for Healthier Cities and Communities. *Healthy People in Healthy Communities*, which focuses on ways that communities can adapt the national Healthy People objectives for local use; visit <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs>. ODPHP also coordinates HHS promotion of National Public Health Week, which takes place every year during the first week of April.

To receive a list of ODPHP publications, call the ODPHP fax-back system at (301) 468-3028.



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